

## Safety Tips: Preparedness

El Paso Fire Department Officials want to remind the Public that September is National Preparedness Month. National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security sponsors national Preparedness Month. The goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. El Paso Fire Officials offer these important tips to help area residents prepare for emergencies.

- **Get a Kit** - Get a kit of emergency supplies that will allow you and your family to survive for at least three days in the event an emergency happens. The kit should include basic items like water, food, battery-powered radio, flashlight and a first aid kit. Go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for a complete list of recommended supplies.
- **Make a Plan** - Plan in advance what you and your family will do in an emergency. Your plan should include a communications plan and address sheltering-in-place and evacuation. Go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more information and templates to help get you started.
- **Be Informed** - Learn more about different threats that could affect your community and appropriate responses to them.
- **Get Involved** - After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step: get training in first aid and emergency response and get involved in preparing your community. The El Paso Fire Department offers Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training free of charge to the public. For Information on this training please call the Fire Department's Public Education Section at 771-1090.